

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 21, 2005, claims 1- 20 are pending and all claims are rejected. Reconsideration is requested for at least the reasons discussed hereinbelow.

The above amendment is submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the original specification and drawings.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Mohn (US 5,657,790). Mohn fails to teach or suggest a valve for a pressurized container with a **t-stem having a lower end with a key-way**, as claimed herein. The Mohn valve merely has a bore opening in the t-stem, in which the valve seat is snapped. However, because it does not have the presently claimed key-way in the t-stem, the snap fit is not tight and the valve seat can separate from the t-stem when the t-stem is turned to open the valve.

The Examiner contends that applicant has provided no structural limitation to the "key-way" and the Examiner has taken the broadest interpretation of a "key-way." Applicants strongly disagree. The "key-way" is a structural element, i.e., a groove or a channel. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not find a "key-way" in the structure described by Mohn.

However, to facilitate examination and an allowance, Applicants have amended the

claims to provide additional structure for the "key-way" of the present invention. Clearly, Mohn does not teach or suggest a key-way comprising a slot in the outer surface to the cavity, the slot terminating with an opening transverse to the longitudinal axis, as claimed herein.

In the present invention, because of the key-way in the t-stem, the valve seat can fit tightly in the t-stem because the key-way provides flexibility to position the valve seat in the t-stem before it is assembled in the valve housing. Once in the valve housing, the valve seat cannot slip out of the t-stem in the present invention.

Claims 8, 9 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mohn in view of Betz (US 5,992,440). Mohn is described above. Betz **fails** to make up for the deficiencies of Mohn. Betz also **fails** to teach or suggest a key-way comprising a slot in the outer surface to the cavity, the slot terminating with an opening transverse to the longitudinal axis, as claimed herein.

Therefore, it is not seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the any combination of Mohn and Betz.

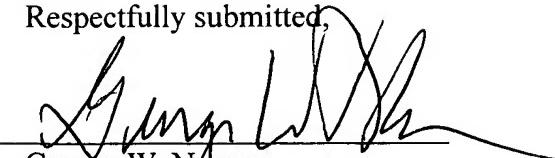
In view of the amendments and discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any

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excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account
No. 04-1105.

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